

Legislative Bulletin.....June 28, 2005

Contents:

H.R. 3057—Amendments to the FY06 Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill, **Part I**

H.R. 3057, the FY06 Amendments to the FY06 Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill, is scheduled to be considered on the House floor on Tuesday, June 28th, subject to an open rule (H. Res. 341). Below are the summaries of 6 preprinted amendments and 6 additional amendments. Note: summaries are based on RSC staff's review of actual amendment text. For a summary of the underlying bill, see the separate RSC Policy Brief distributed earlier.

RSC Staff Contacts: Sheila Cole x6-9719; Derek Baker x6-8585; Joelle Cannon x6-69717

Simpson/Otter (R-ID) #1: According to his office, the sponsor will not be offering the amendment.

The preprinted amendment prohibits available funds from being “used by the Export-Import Bank of the United States to guarantee, insure, extend credit, or participate in the extension of credit in connection with the purchase or lease of any product by-

- (1) the People’s Republic of China or any agency or national thereof; or
- (2) any other foreign country, or agency or national thereof, if the product to be purchased or leased by such other country, agency, or national is, to the knowledge of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, principally for use in, or sale or lease to, the People's Republic of China.”

Bonilla (R-TX) #2: States that of the amounts available under the Export-Import Bank Administrative Expenses, “\$7,000,000 shall **not** be available for obligation until the head of the Office of Inspector General in the Export-Import Bank of the United States is appointed and confirmed.”

According to the sponsor, “Currently, the Export-Import Bank is the only Federal Agency authorized to use taxpayer’s money to make loans and loan guarantees without any oversight by an Inspector General. The EXIM reauthorization Act of 2002 mandated that EXIM have an office of Inspector General, yet to date they are not in compliance and four years later EXIM has yet to comply with the IG requirement.”

Kucinich (D-OH) #3: According to his office, the sponsor will no longer be offering the amendment. The preprinted amendment states none of the funds “made available in this

Act under the heading “International Military Education and Training” be used to provide assistance for Guatemala.”

Royce (R-CA) #4: Would increase then decrease by \$7 million the funds under the State Department’s “non-proliferation, anti-terrorism, demining and related programs” heading, for a net change of zero. According to the sponsor, the amendment would “redirect \$7 million to the Small Arms/Light Weapons Destruction initiative. This initiative works to prevent terrorists from accessing shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles.” The sponsor also noted that the “entire NADR [Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related programs] account is reduced by approximately 1.75% in order to account for the increase in the Small Arms/Light weapons destruction initiative.” According to the Committee Report, the Small Arms Initiative received \$7million in FY05, the President requested \$8.75 million in FY06, and the Committee does not fund the initiative.

Garrett (R-NJ) #5: Inserts the following provision:

Limitation on funds relating to attendance of federal employees at conferences occurring outside the United States

SEC. __. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to send or otherwise pay for the attendance of more than 50 Federal employees at any single conference occurring outside the United States.

In 2002, a total of 236 HHS employees traveled to Barcelona, Spain. to participate in an AIDS Conference, at a total cost to the American taxpayers of \$3.6 million. In 2004, the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) sent 74 employees to the 2004 AIDS conference in Bangkok, Thailand, and a total of 60 scientists from HHS also attended. The cost of individual conference registration was \$1250, and thus the cost of registration for HHS and USAID alone was \$162,500. For the same cost as the Thailand conference registration fees for 130 federal employees, the U.S. government could have provided a dose of nevirapin to 216,666 newborns in Africa. The average cost for a dose is 75 cents. Studies have shown that a single dose of nevirapin given within 24 hours after birth can protect many infants from infection with the virus that causes AIDS. The amendment would cut back on overseas conference travel by limiting attendance of federal employees funded under this bill to 50 per conference. (The amendment was adopted by voice vote on the FY05 appropriations bill, but dropped in conference.)

McGovern (D-MA) #6: Would decrease by \$100 million (from \$734.5 million to \$634.5 million) the available funds under the Andean Counterdrug Initiative (ACI) heading for military aid to Columbia, South America, which supports a unified campaign against narcotics trafficking, among other counter-drug initiatives. The ACI funds in the underlying bill are an increase of \$3.5 million over the FY05 level, and include \$463 million for Colombia, level funding from FY05.

According to the sponsor, the U.S. must “be more strategic and productive when spending the hard-earned U.S. tax dollars in Plan Colombia. Now, more than ever, is the time to invest our funds wisely towards a qualitative plan to end this age-old conflict while strengthening democracy, rule of law and human rights protections.” The National

Taxpayers Union has indicated it supports this amendment and will score this vote in their yearly ratings.

According to Rep. Souder, who opposes the amendment, “The Andean Counterdrug Initiative (ACI) continues to achieve the objectives for which it was designed. After years of steady increases, cocaine production in the Andes is, for the third straight year, decreasing. An aggressive program of eradication, begun in earnest with the election in mid-2002 of Colombian President Alvaro Uribe, has cut Colombia’s potential cocaine production by one-third compared with the year before he took office. With Colombia producing one-third less cocaine than it was just two years earlier, there simply is less to go around.”

Pitts (R-PA): Reduces by \$750 million (from \$3.1 billion to \$2.34 billion), funds available for grants to Egypt under the Foreign Military Financing Program, and increases by \$750 million (from \$200 million to \$950 million), funds available for infectious disease programs under the Child Survival and Health Programs fund.

According to the sponsor, the amendment will, “redirect \$750 million in Egypt’s military aid to programs that fight malaria in Africa. The reprogramming of funding will save taxpayers \$400 million, according to the Congressional Budget Office.” The sponsor cites the Egyptian “government’s ongoing obstruction of democratic reforms, widespread human rights abuses, and unwarranted military buildup” as concerns, and states, “Each year, we give Egypt \$1.3 billion in military aid. But I’m concerned that the money seems to do reinforce a regime that refuses change and excuses oppression. I think this military aid is money that can be better spent.”

Sanders (I-VT): According to the sponsor’s office, text of the amendment is not available. The sponsor states, the amendment would “prohibit the Export-Import Bank from approving federal loans or loan guarantees for the construction of nuclear power plants in China.” He continues, “On February 18, 2005, the Export-Import Bank made a preliminary commitment to lend almost \$5 billion in U.S. taxpayer dollars to Westinghouse to sell U.S. made nuclear technology to China for the construction of four Chinese nuclear power plants. Not only is this a terrible deal, the nuclear division of Westinghouse isn’t even owned by a United States company. In 1998, British National Fuels, owned by the British government, purchased the nuclear division of Westinghouse. And, while a portion of this nuclear technology will be made in the U.S., the Chinese government has indicated that eventually all of this sensitive technology will be made in China. In other words, this U.S. taxpayer backed loan will be going to subsidize a British-owned company for the transfer of U.S. nuclear technology to Communist China that will end up destroying U.S. jobs. This is absurd. Simply put, American taxpayer dollars should not be used to finance the construction of nuclear power plants in Communist China.”

The sponsor also noted that the amendment is supported by “the National Taxpayers Union, Friends of the Earth, Citizens Against Government Waste, and the U.S. Public Interest Research Group.”

Weiner/Ferguson/Crowley/Israel D-NY/R-NJ/D-NY/R-NY: The amendment states, “None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available pursuant to this Act shall be obligated or expended to finance any assistance to Saudi Arabia.”

According to the sponsor, “the Saudis have not been a true ally in the war on terror. They have stymied our terror investigations, provided financial support to terrorists, and bankrolled fanatical Wahhabism....This amendment would prohibit funding to the Saudis.”

Beauprez/McHenry (R-CO/R-SC): Adds the following provision:

Limitation on assistance to foreign countries that refuse to extradite to the United States any individual accused in the United States of killing a law enforcement officer

None of the funds made available in this Act for the Department of State may be used to provide assistance to any country the government of which has notified the Department of State of its refusal to extradite to the United States any individual accused in the United States of killing a law enforcement officer, as specified in a United States extradition request.

According to sponsors, this amendment “will help return accused cop killers who have fled the country back to the United States to stand trial and receive the punishment they deserve.” There was recently a case in Colorado where a Mexican citizen executed a uniformed police officer by shooting him in the back while shooting and wounding another policeman in the process. He fled to Mexico and the Mexican government is refusing to return him if he could be sentenced to life in prison without parole. In another case, a convicted felon who had been deported three times allegedly shot and killed a Los Angeles County sheriff following a routine traffic stop before fleeing to Mexico. The sponsors state, “Countries that refuse to extradite cop killers should not be rewarded by receiving American aid. We must eliminate these havens for cop killers by withholding U.S. funds.”

King (R-IA): The amendment would decrease funding for the Global HIV Initiative by \$1 million (from \$1.9 billion to \$1.8 billion). The underlying bill includes \$2.7 billion to combat international HIV/AIDS, including \$1.9 billion for the State Department’s Global HIV/AIDS Initiative and \$775 million for USAID. Such funding levels exceed the last year’s level and the President’s request by \$416 million and \$131 million respectively.

According to the sponsor, “Organizations such as USAID which receive funds from the Global HIV Initiative have ignored the success of programs such as ABC (Abstinence, Be Faithful, Use a Condom) in Uganda. My amendment is a small effort to acknowledge that policy and funding changes must be made to our AIDS money to Africa. Moreover, no taxpayer money should ever go to fund groups that provide abortions or counsel women to get abortions.”

Jackson-Lee (D-TX): Increases by \$50 million (from \$365 million to \$415 million) the available funds for basic education under USAID’s development assistance heading; reduces by \$50 million (from \$734.5 million to \$684.5 million) the available funds for the Andean Counterdrug Initiative that provides military assistance to Columbia.

According to the sponsor, “Plan Colombia is an overly-military based strategy. It fails to encourage social development, which is a key part in creating a safe and stable Colombia.” The sponsor states this amendment “would allocate \$50 million dollars to provide access to education for the most adversely affected group in Colombia – internally displaced persons (IDPs). The U.S. Department of State estimates that only 15% of IDP children receive education and according to UNICEF 70% of students fail to continue education following displacement.”

###

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.